

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, MO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: A. RABAT 3138; B. CHMUSLO DTG 201003Z, MARCH 1975

NAPLES FOR DEP SEC DEF PARTY

1. DEPT AND DOD SHARE EMBASSY CONCERN EXPRESSED (REF A) OVER MATTERS THAT KING HASSAN MAY RAISE WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DURING VISIT. IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEM OVER M-48A3 TANKS ALREADY IN COUNTRY AND AS INDICATION OF U.S. DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO MOROCCAN NEEDS, ARMY AGREED TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT IN RESPONDING TO EMBASSY/MUSLO SHORT NOTICE REQUEST FOR M-48A3 TECHNICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE TEAM (TAT) PRIOR TO DEP SEC DEF VISIT. YOU WILL RECALL PREVIOUS OFFERS IN SEPTEMBER 1974 TO SEND M-48A3 MTT AS WELL AS OFFER TO SEND LIMITED TRAINING SURVEY TEAMS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS (INCLUDING M-48A3 TANKS) THAT KING MIGHT

AGREE TO PURCHASE. THE M-48A3 MTT WAS ON TWO-WEEK ALERT TO DEPLOY TO MOROCCO FROM OCTOBER 1974 THROUGH MARCH 1975, WHEN MUSLO REQUESTED MTT STANDBY BE CHANGED FROM 14 TO 30 DAY NOTIFICATION (REF B). WE ARE ENCOURAGED NOW THAT GOM FINALLY WILLING ACCEPT M-48A3 ASSISTANCE; HOWEVER, TEAM SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY PROPOSALS TO GOM ON IN-COUNTRY CONVERSION TO M-48A5S UNTIL PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY STAFFED AND COORDINATED IN WASHINGTON. WE HOPE THAT AS RESULT OF (A) RECENT VISIT (16-21 JUNE) BY FOUR KEY MOROCCAN ARMY OFFICERS TO U.S. ARMY INSTALLATIONS (INCLUDING REBUILD LINE AT ANNISTON),(B) CURRENT PRESENCE OF TRAINING SURVEY TEAM IN MOROCCO, AND (C) ARRIVAL OF M-48A3 TAT, THE GOM WOULD NOW BE READY TO SIGN LOA ON 28 M-48A3 REBUILT TANKS FOR DELIVERY IN EARLY CY 76.

2. REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF M-48A3 TANKS. FOLLOWING COL. DLIMI'S VISIT WITH DEP SEC DEF IN JANUARY 1975, DECISION WAS MADE TO EXPEDITE CERTAIN ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, I.E., 13 CHAPARRAL, 6 TOW LAUNCHERS, 55 APCs, 6 M-109A1 HOWITZERS, AND 28 M-48A3 TANKS (REBUILT). WE HAVE KEPT THE SPANISH INFORMED OF THE GENERAL AMOUNT OF U.S. ARMS SOLD TO MOROCCO, AND SPECIFICALLY, THE OFFER TO DELIVER TANKS IN CY 1976. THE SPANISH HAVE BEEN VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT OUR ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO AND ANY FURTHER ACCELERATION OF TANK DELIVERIES (ESPECIALLY IF IT COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEP SEC DEF VISIT) COULD BE INTERPRETED BY SPANISH AS A BREACH OF FAITH ON OUR PART AND FAVORITISM TOWARD MOROCCO. OUR POLICY, AS EXPLAINED TO BOTH MOROCCO AND SPAIN, IS ONE OF STRICT NEUTRALITY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SAHARA DISPUTE, COUPLED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF ALL PARTIES TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE PEACEFULLY. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OR INTIMATIONS IN THE SPANISH AND ALGERIAN PRESS THAT THE U.S. IS BACKING MOROCCO'S CLAIMS AND IN VIEW OF: (A) TENSION BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO, (B) PREVIOUS INFORMATION PASSED TO SPAIN ON MOROCCAN TANK DELIVERIES, AND (C) DELICATE NATURE OF OUR ON-GOING CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, WE HAVE DECIDED AGAINST ANY FURTHER ACCELERATION OF THE ALREADY EXPEDITED FY 76 TANK DELIVERIES.

3. A. TOOLS, CASE UGJ. DA HAS REVIEWED ADDITIONAL EMBASSY/MUSLO RECOMMENDATIONS (REF A) FOR EXPEDITED DELIVERIES AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT AVAILABILITY ON TOOLS CASE UGJ CAN BE EXPEDITED FOR SHIPMENT, HOPEFULLY, WITHIN 60 DAYS, BUT 90 DAYS AT THE OUTSIDE.

B. 90MM AMMUNITION. DEPENDENT UPON SPECIFIC QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION DESIRED, TPT, HEAT, WP, AND HE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER CASE ACCEPTANCE AND PAYMENT

(CASH IN ADVANCE). IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT AMMUNITION WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE WAIVER OF FMS APPEARANCE STANDARDS. (QUALITY WILL NOT BE AFFECTED, BUT SHIPMENT MAY ARRIVE IN DIFFERENT COLORED CRATES, ETC.). HVAP NOT AVAILABLE, ARMY HAS ZERO STOCK BALANCE. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE SPECIFIC QUANTITIES BY TYPE GOM WANTS SO THAT LOA CAN BE PREPARED.

C. FIVE M577A1 CMD. POST CARRIERS. PRODUCTION LEAD-TIME FOR M577 FOR MOROCCO HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 29 MONTHS. EARLIER AVAILABILITY WOULD ENTAIL DIVERSION OF PRODUCTION DESTINED FOR THE ACTIVE ARMY OR WITHDRAWN FROM CURRENT ARMY ASSETS IN USED CONDITION.

D. M88A1 IS NOT CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION BUT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. PRODUCTION LEAD-TIME IS ESTIMATED AT 46 MONTHS. EARLIER AVAILABILITY WOULD REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL FROM CURRENT ARMY ASSETS; HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE ASSETS (M88) HAVE GASOLINE ENGINES (M88A1 HAS DIESEL) AND PROVISION OF THIS ITEM WOULD COMPOUND LOGISTIC SUPPORT (SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE) PROBLEMS.

E. IN VIEW OF C AND D ABOVE AND WITH PAST HISTORY OF GOM RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT USED OR REBUILT EQUIPMENT, THE LOGICAL SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE NEW PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT. IF EMBASSY/MUSLO DETERMINES CRITICAL NEED FOR M577A1S AND M88, SUGGEST SUBJECT BE ADDRESSED UPON DEP SEC DEF RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

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4. DEP SEC DEF VISIT. WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH VISITS OF HIGH LEVEL U.S. OFFICIALS THAT KING WILL RAISE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON EXPEDITING SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT MR. CLEMENTS IS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT M-48A3 TANKS IN-COUNTRY AND/OR FURTHER EXPEDITED DELIVERIES, HE MAY WISH TO ASSURE THE KING THAT WE WILL DO OUR BEST IN PROVIDING THE ASSISTANCE AND TOOLS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE TANKS. HE MAY ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO OFFER EXPEDITED DELIVERY ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT ARE ALSO IN SHORT SUPPLY IN OUR OWN SERVICES. HE COULD ALSO SAY WE INTEND TO KEEP MOROCCO'S DESIRE FOR EXPEDITED DELIVERY UNDER REVIEW IN HOPES OF IMPROVING LEAD-TIMES. KISSINGER

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